

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 24, 2006. Claims 1 to 25 and 27 are in the application, of which Claims 21 and 27 are the only independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,539,530 (Reifman) in view of U.S. Patent 5,452,289 (Sharma). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The invention concerns a print driver that is executed in the same computer terminal that also executes an application program. A document is accepted from the application program, and a setting screen is displayed. The setting screen is for setting a transmission setting or a print setting, and is displayed by calling the print driver in accordance with the selection of a printing menu of the application program. In accordance with the selection of the setting screen, there is a selection of whether the document is to be transmitted or printed. In the case of printing, print settings are set, whereas in the case of transmission, transmission settings are set including a destination. The document is converted to image data which is printable form, and the image data is transmitted to the image processing apparatus, together with appropriate ones of the print settings or transmission settings, for printing or transmission of the image data.

Thus, with specific focus on the display of a setting screen for setting a transmission setting or a print setting, the invention provides a natural interface with a user,

since the user can use similar procedures to handle either transmission or printing of the document. That is, according to the invention, in an environment where a printer driver is executed in the same computer terminal as an application program, there is a display of a setting screen for setting a transmission setting or a print setting by calling the print driver in accordance with the selection of a printing menu of the application program. Since there is a display of a setting screen for setting a transmission setting or a print setting by calling the print driver in accordance with the selection of a printing menu of the application program, the user is able to print or to transmit in a natural way (i.e., by selection of a printing menu of the application program), and is also able to select either printing or transmission by using similar procedures.

On the contrary, the cited reference to Reifman is related to the user interface on the front panel of a stand-alone facsimile machine. As a consequence, Reifman is completely unrelated to the invention. In particular, Reifman does not show execution of a print driver on the same computer terminal as an application program from which there is a selection of a printing menu. As a consequence, Reifman also does not disclose or suggest display of a setting screen for setting a transmission setting or a print setting by calling the print driver in accordance with selection of a printing menu.

Sharma relates to a personal communications system (PCS) operable within the context of a personal computer having a Windows® operating system and hardware components including telephone communications equipment, digital signal processors and hardware to enable voice, fax and data communications with remote sites. As discussed in connection with Figures 28 and 29 at column 42 of Sharma, a fax capability of the PCS

software is tied to the windowing system print command so that facsimile transmissions may be sent by any software that can print through the windowing environment. Sharma, however, does not involve the display of a setting screen for setting a transmission setting or a print setting, much less the display of such a screen by calling a printer driver in accordance with selection of a printing menu of an application program that executes on the same computer terminal as the printer driver.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection over Reifman in view of Sharma should be withdrawn.

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment, so as to cite art from an Office Action dated July 21, 2006 of a counterpart Japanese application (JP H07-295478). Two references are listed in the Information Disclosure Statement. The first, JP 62-217762, describes only that a cover page can be attached to a document at the time of transmission. The second, JP 6-105059, discloses the conversion of a document into printable form by using a printer driver and transmitting or printing the converted document.

However, both of these Japanese references are believed to suffer from the same deficiencies as Reifman and Sharma. In particular, neither is seen to disclose or to suggest the display of a setting screen for setting a transmission setting or a print setting by calling a print driver in accordance with selection of a printing menu of an application program that executes in the same computer terminal as the print driver.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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